

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JOHANN 00082 141636Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05  
CIAE-00 SP-02 L-02 PRS-01 CU-02 PM-03 DODE-00 SY-02  
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R 141440Z JAN 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5490

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JOHANNESBURG 0082

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SF, PINT

SUBJECT: SSRC DISCUSSES ANC AND FUTURE PLANS

REF: (A) JOHANNESBURG 0070 (NOTAL) (B) JOHANNESBURG A-3

1. POLOFF MET WITH SSRC (SOWETO STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL) MEMBER TODAY (JAN 14) THROUGH INTERVENTION OF W KAMBULE, HEADMASTER ORLANDO (SOWETO) HIGH SCHOOL. SITUATION IN SOWETO STILL CONFUSED (SEE REFTTEL) AS STUDENTS OPPOSED TO ANY BOYCOTT AND CONTINUING TO ATTEND CLASSES. SSRC REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD (LAST NAME WAS WITHHELD AS HE STILL FELT HE MUST PROTECT HIMSELF) SAID THAT SPLIT OVER SCHOOL BOYCOTT EXTENDED TO SSRC ITSELF WITH SOME MEMBERS ARGUING ON THE NEED FOR STUDENTS TO STAY IN CLASSES WHILE OTHERS PUSHED FOR BOYCOTT.

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PAGE 02 JOHANN 00082 141636Z

2. RICHARD SAID THE SSRC WAS SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY LEADERSHIP PROBLEMS AND THAT MANY OF THE ORIGINAL SSRC LEADERS HAD BEEN PICKED UP BY POLICE OR HAD FLED COUNTRY. HE ESTIMATED PRESENT SSRC LEADERSHIP AS THIRD ECHELON. HE SAID PARTICULAR BLOW WAS MOROBE (SEE REFAIR) DETENTION (BIO NOTE: MOROBE'S FIRST NAME IS APPARENTLY MCPHERSON ALTHOUGH HE ALSO IS KNOWN AS MURPHY.) RICHARD AT FIRST WAS HESITANT

TO SPEAK ABOUT MOROBE BUT AS HE FELT MORE CONFIDENT HE BECAME MORE CANDID. HE SAID MOROBE WAS RESPECTED BY STUDENTS FOR HIS INTELLIGENCE AND LEADERSHIP QUALITIES. PRESENT SSRC CHAIRMAN KHOTSO SEATHOLO IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE ALTHOUGH HE IS ACKNOWLEDGED WITHIN SOWETO AS HEAD OF THE STUDENT MOVEMENT.

3. RICHARD ACKNOWLEDGED SSRC MEMBERS HAD RECENTLY SPOKEN TO TSIESTSI MASHININI IN BOTSWANA AND IT APPEARS MASHININI IS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA ON BEHALF OF ANC. HE REVEALED THAT MILITANT STUDENT MOVEMENT IS LEERY OF ANC BECAUSE OF ITS AVOWED MARXIST CONNECTIONS AND SAID THAT MOST STUDENTS DO NOT EVEN KNOW WHAT MARXISM IS. HE STATED THAT ANC HAD TRICKED MANY STUDENTS INTO LEADING THE COUNTRY WITH THE PROMISE OF SCHOLARSHIPS IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND THEN SENT THEM TO TANZANIA FOR MILITARY TRAINING. HE ADDED THAT MOST STUDENTS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN THE ANC OR MILITARY TRAINING, BUT RATHER WANT OPPORTUNITIES TO BETTER THEMSELVES IN OR OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA. IN THIS REGARD, RICHARD STATED SOWETO RESIDENTS, WHOLE STILL RESPECTING MASHININI AS ONE OF THEIR LEADERS, ARE BECOMING SUSPICIOUS OF HIS ANC TIES AND BELIEVE THE ANC IS USING HIM. MASHININI ALSO LOST CREDIBILITY WITH STUDENTS WHEN HE CLAIMED TO JOURNALIST OVERSEAS HIS FAMILY HAD BEEN HURT AS MOST STUDENTS KNOW MASHININI'S FAMILY IS ALL RIGHT.

4. AS TO FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF MILITANT STUDENTS, RICHARD ADMITTED SSRC WAS GRAPPLING WITH HOW TO CONTINUE PRESSURE WITHOUT HURTING THEIR OWN PEOPLE. ARGUMENTS AGAINST BOYCOTT ARE THAT STUDENTS NEED  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 JOHANN 00082 141636Z

EDUCATION AND THAT IF BOYCOTT SUCCEEDED SCHOOLS WOULD BE CLOSED AND TEACHERS SENT TO HOMELANDS. THIS, RICHARD NOTED, COULD ONLY STRENGTHEN HAND OF THOSE PUSHING HOMELANDS POLICY. SSRC IS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE PRESSURE BUT DECISIONS ON FUTURE ACTIONS ARE YET TO BE DECIDED UPON.

5. COMMENT: RICHARD APPEARS ARTICULATE, SERIOUS, AND INTELLIGENT FOR HIS AGE (20). HE IS COMMITTED TO WORKING FOR CHANGE ALTHOUGH HE IS OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN PURSUING HIS EDUCATION. STUDENTS DO NOT APPEAR TO CARE FOR IDEOLOGICAL AIMS OF THE ANC, BEING MORE PRAGMATIC IN THEIR ORIENTATION. FAILURE OF ANC TO PENETRATE STUDENT GROUPS IS SIGNIFICANT BUT AS FRUSTRATIONS BUILD ANC MAY FIND MORE FERTILE GROUND FOR RECRUITS.  
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## Message Attributes

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